

[CONFIDENTIAL.]

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS
PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,
NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,
OUDH, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA.

Received up to 30th July, 1881.

POLITICAL.

The *Oudh Akhbār* of the 28th July states that the only important advantage we have obtained from the late Kabul war, which involved a heavy loss of men and money, is that we have been able to place an Amīr of our own choice on the throne of Kabul. If that Amīr is deposed, the war will have been quite useless. His deposition will affect our Kabul policy and lower our prestige not only in Afghanistan but also in Central Asia and Europe. Moreover, as Aiyub Khan is our bitter enemy, he will openly intrigue with Russia if he succeeds in attaining the sovereignty of Kabul. Under these circumstances the Government should endeavour to maintain the authority of the Amīr.

Circulation,
715 copies.

The same paper says that all Europe considers Midhat Pasha innocent and has expressed its opinion in his favour. It appears from a London telegram of the 22nd July that the English Government has also instructed Lord Dufferin to intercede on his behalf. If the English Government at all suspected him to be guilty, it would never have interceded for him.

because no power will ever show sympathy with a regicide. The Porte has already commuted the sentence of death and resolved to deport him to Arabia or some other place. We hope that the interference of the English Government will induce the Porte even to exempt him from deportation. He is an old, faithful, and able Turkish officer. His ill-treatment would bring the Turkish Government into disrepute and might even lead to a revolution in Turkey. He is a victim to the intrigues of his enemies. There is reason to hope that their intrigues will not succeed.

Circulation,
490 copies.

The *Koh-i-Nūr* of the 27th July, referring to the instructions issued by the English Government to the British Ambassador at Constantinople to interfere on behalf of Midhat Pasha, who was convicted of complicity in the murder of the ex-Sultan Abdul Aziz Khan and sentenced to death by the Porte, disapproves of the interference of the Government on behalf of a man who committed such an atrocious crime. The action of the Government is also objectionable on other grounds. *First*, when the ex-Sultan was dethroned, many persons suspected that his dethronement was carried out at the secret instigation of the English Government. The interference of the English Government on behalf of Midhat Pasha will remove all doubt from their minds and convince them that the English Government must have undoubtedly instigated his deposition. *Secondly*, the English Government had no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Turkey. However, if Midhat Pasha is innocent and the Turkish Court has unjustly convicted him, the English Government should publish the illegal proceedings of that Court in order that the public may be convinced that the interference of the Government is not altogether unjustifiable.

Circulation,
425 copies.

The *Anjuman-i-Panjāb* of the 26th July says that the Amir's troops have marched from Kandahar to encounter Aiyub Khan.

Afghan affairs.

News has lately been received to the effect that he has also sent an army under Ishak Khan from Turkestan to attack Aiyub Khan from the other side. In that case Aiyub Khan will be placed between two fires. If the Amir has played this ruse, it reflects great credit on his ability and energy. If the news about the despatch of an expedition under Ishak Khan is correct, it may be inferred that the treasure which the Amir was said to have sent to Turkestan was devoted to equipping this expedition, and was not sent there with the object that he might fall back on that place in case he was driven from Kabul, as was suspected. But we should accept all news about the state of affairs beyond Kabul with hesitation. We may at first imagine that Aiyub Khan will be able to do nothing. But it should be observed that he has some Sardars with him. Moreover, he is himself at the head of his army, while the Amir has not left Kabul. It is well known that in Afghanistan a Sardar who personally takes the field is generally successful, because his influence induces the people to side with him and his presence also inspires confidence in his troops. Whether the Amir Abdul Rahman Khan is victorious or Aiyub Khan is victorious, we should no more give any money to the ruler of Kabul. We paid an annual subsidy to the late Amir Sher Ali, and we know how he returned our favours. What has Abdul Rahman done for us in return for the money we have paid him? Likewise, we should expect nothing from Aiyub Khan if he becomes the ruler of Kabul.

The English supplement to the *Anjuman-i-Panjáb* of the 26th July makes the following remarks in regard to Afghan affairs :—

“As Lord Hartington’s statement that the Government have spent £390,000 (or with exchange nearly 50 lakhs) on Abdur Rahman must be assumed to be correct, it would appear that we have bestowed a far larger sum, within a few months, on a Russian protégé than we had paid during

twenty years to Dost Muhammad and his successors ending with Sher Ali, which was only about 26 lakhs in all. We believe we are right in saying that Dost Muhammad got six lakhs; Sher Ali in all, before he came to Ambala, another six lakhs, and afterwards at Ambala ten lakhs; he subsequently refusing to take a second sum of ten lakhs which was long waiting for his acceptance at the Peshawar treasury, and which was finally declined without thanks in consequence of his annoyance with our Seistan decision. To our expenditure must, of course, be added the salaries, or whatever one may please to call them, paid to the Afghan refugees or *detenus* in India, and which seem to represent what there is of the respectable classes of Kabul and Kandahar (*sic.*) These payments, we believe, can scarcely amount to much less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs per mensem. It would be far cheaper to let our Afghan visitors all go back and then subsidize the man who emerges victoriously out of the impending struggle for the Amirship. Yakub Khan has long been the *beau ideal* of an Afghan, and, in consequence of him, Musa Khan his son and Aiyub Khan his brother are the heroes of Afghan imagination. To play Russia's game by continuing to support Abdur Rahman seems scarcely wise. To drop him might entail a loss of prestige. But to support Aiyub Khan as regent for Musa Khan would render us popular and be in keeping with our announcements when we invaded Afghanistan. Of course such course might to some extent depend on the hitherto unpublished report of the commission of enquiry into the attitude of Yakub Khan as regards the Cavagnari massacre. To divide the country between Abdurrahman at Kabul and Ayub Khan at Kandahar under the strong pressure of the Indian Government, preventing either of them encroaching on the other, would also seem to be an intelligible and, in one sense, consistent policy. The best plan, however, would appear to be to let the Afghans 'stew in their own gravy.' Afghan politics are like a dictionary, which you may open and shut after finding in it the word you want. In adroit

hands you may as easily look for 'peace' as for 'war' or 'neutrality,' or knighthoods, decorations, or promotion, for Afghanistan is a heterogeneous mass of conflicting barbarians, to whom it is a compliment to apply such a term as 'a policy' in any European sense of the word or for any other purpose than to obtain credit for it in England. We would wish, then, that once for ever this dictionary were shut, for the Afghans will not interfere with our Indian possession ; and should Russia draw nearer, which we cannot prevent anyhow, we shall always be able to buy as many Afghans as we like to lead those whose national and religious fanaticism will always urge them on against any invading *kafir*, be he Russian or English. Of course there is also the plan of annexing the country, by which we could certainly count on a portion of the population and of its leaders ; but to 'meddle and muddle' and to pay everybody all round is not the way to consolidate our influences either in Afghanistan or India. We shall only seem to have gone to war to prevent Russia getting to Merv, where her influence, if not her presence, is already paramount, in spite of our sacrifices of men and money."

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The *Aftab-i-Panjab* of the 22nd July says that the Gov-

The recognition of the services of postal officials who served in Afghanistan.

ernment has bestowed titles and rewards upon the military officers who rendered distinguished services in

Afghanistan. The doctors who accompanied the army have received promotions. Likewise the commissariat officials obtained large benefits. But, as far as we know, the services of the postal officials who served in Afghanistan have not yet been recognised by the Government in any way. They had to endure troubles and hardships about as great as those borne by the troops who fought with the enemy. Had Mr. Le Briton, the late Deputy Postmaster-General of Afghanistan, been alive, there is no doubt that he would long ago

Circulation,
660 copies.

have recommended his subordinates to the Government of India for the recognition of their services. Formerly it was rumoured that they would be allowed three months' privilege leave on full pay, but no privilege leave has been granted to them. If any of them takes any leave, he has to give a substitute to do his work as usual. We hope that the Government will take their case into consideration and duly recognise their services.

Circulation,
325 copies.

The *Shola-i-Tár* of the 26th July gives the substance of Mr. Risdon's lecture delivered at Manchester in February last, in which he attempted to prove that the natives were reduced to a state of abject poverty by the heavy burden of taxation and urged the abolition of the salt tax. The editor remarks that the condition of the natives is really much worse than that described by Mr. Risdon, but it is suprising that, although the Government officers are well acquainted with the miserable condition of the natives, the Government does nothing to improve it. Some of the taxes which press severely upon the people should be abolished. Moreover, there are some kinds of fees, levied by Government, which are even more ruinous than the taxes properly so called. These fees should be also reduced or abolished. Look at the fees levied by courts. Formerly only 8 *annas* had to be paid to court as the wages of the *amín* for the execution of a decree the amount of which did not exceed Rs. 50. He both attached the property and sold it on the payment of a single fee of 8 *annas*. But the *amín*'s fee has lately been fixed at Rs. 2 a day. If he has to go more than five miles, Rs. 2 is charged for every five miles. Suppose a decree of Rs. 10 has to be executed at ten miles from court; the decree-holder will first have to pay Rs. 10 for the attachment of the property, as the travelling expenses of the *amin*. When the property has been attached, the decree-holder will have to pay Rs. 7-8 as the pay of the guardian for one month in whose charge the property will remain until it is sold.

If any objection is raised to the sale of the property and the property is not sold within one month, the decree-holder will have to pay the salary of the guardian for another month. When the amín goes to sell the property, the decree-holder will again have to pay Rs. 10 on account of his travelling expenses. Thus in this case the cost of executing a decree of Rs. 10 will amount to about Rs. 30. Likewise very high fees are charged for copies of papers supplied by courts. Two *annas* are charged for every sheet of paper which can be had in the bazaar for two or three pie. If the Government wishes to better the condition of the people, it should abolish these kinds of heavy fees and also lessen the burden of taxation. When we had written this article thus far, we received a copy of the *Government Gazette of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh* of the 23rd July. It destroyed all our hopes. It appears from that *Gazette* that the municipal committee of Shahabad in the Hardoi district has been authorized to levy a new house-tax at a rate not exceeding Rs. 7½ per cent. per annum on the yearly rent of houses. The former kings only levied the land tax and the octroi. The people are not accustomed to pay such taxes as the income-tax, the license-tax, the house-tax, &c., and therefore they are dissatisfied with the levy of such taxes. The Government should enquire into the causes of the poverty of the people and try to remove them.

The *Ashraf-al-Akhbár* (Delhi) of the 21st July briefly refers to the charges brought against Mr. Fisher, the Magistrate of Meerut, and to the answers given by him to the charges, and remarks that his answers are satisfactory. Obviously Ganga Ram brought these charges against Mr. Fisher through spite. It will be remembered that he formerly submitted a memorial to the local Government praying that the railway-station should be built near his *sarai* at Meerut, but the Government did not accede to his wishes as

Circulation,
100 copies.

The case of J. H. Fisher,
Esq., C.S., the Magistrate
of Meerut.

Mr. Fisher did not approve of his proposal. He was much dissatisfied. The *Nauchandi* fair afforded him an opportunity of revenging himself on Mr. Fisher. Mr. Fisher is a just, good-natured, and courteous officer. We have frequently heard respectable natives of Meerut speaking in high terms of his conduct. If he prosecutes Ganga Ram for defamation, the latter will be brought to his senses. The Government should take no notice of anonymous petitions.

Circulation,
125 copies.

The *Vritt Dhārā* (published in Marathi at Dhar) of the 25th July says that salt is an essential part of food in India. But since the Government has prohibited the private manufacture of salt and entirely taken the trade into its own hands, salt has become dear. The payment of the increased price presses severely upon the poor. If the object of the Government is only to prevent the sale of inferior salt which was manufactured by private individuals, there was no necessity to prohibit the private manufacture of salt. The Government should allow the people to make salt as formerly. All that seems necessary to prevent the manufacture of inferior salt is that no salt should be allowed to be taken to the market until it has been examined by some Government officer.

Circulation,
250 copies.

The *Mitr Vilās* of the 25th July expresses great satisfaction that the Government of India has made arrangements for the supply of news in Hindi from the Press Commissioner's Office to the editors of Hindi papers, but regrets to state that the communications of that office are written in very bad Hindi.

The Hindi communications of the Press Commissioner's Office.

POST-OFFICE.

Circulation,
425 copies.

A correspondent of the *Anjuman-i-Panjāb* of the 26th July complains that there is generally great delay in the distribution of letters in the interior of the country. Each rural messenger has a large circle in his charge. It

Delay in the delivery of letters in the interior of the country.

takes him several days to go over his whole circle. The number of rural messengers should be increased to avoid delay.

L O C A L.

The *Sáhas* (Allahabad) of the 23rd July, in its local news column, complains that the sweepers do not properly clean the streets and lanes in the city. When it rains, the sweepers take out all the foul water from the drains and throw it into the lanes. The bad smell that emanates from this dirty water is unbearable. Moreover, uncleanness is a source of disease.

The *Akhbár-i-Ám* (Lahore) of the 23rd July, in its local news column, complains that some European soldiers belonging to the Mian Mír garrison, which is at present encamped at Pulshah, seized a woman by force with the object of committing an outrage, but they were obliged to release her in consequence of her crying. These soldiers generally harass men in the neighbouring villages and ask them for women. It is believed that the Superintendent of Police has lately brought this nuisance to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner.

Circulation,
1,700 copies.

A correspondent of the *Mitr Vilás* of the 25th July complains that some days ago, when the Hindus sounded their conch and other instruments in the evening at their temple in Dibai, Bulandshahr, at the time of worshipping their god as usual, some Musalmans suddenly entered the temple, beat the Hindus, and snatched their instruments from them. The Hindus have instituted a criminal suit against the Musalmans. It is surprising that the Musalmans have the audacity to commit such riots so frequently.

Circulation,
250 copies.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

Sl. No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
1	<i>Aftab-i-Hind</i>	... Jalandhar, Urdu	...	Weekly	Barkat Ali	July 23rd	1881.	...
2	<i>Aftab-i-Panjab</i>	... Lahore	... Ditto	... Bi-weekly	Divan Buta Singh,	" 22nd & 25th	July 26th & 27th respectively.	660 copies.
3	<i>Agra Akhbar</i>	... Agra	... Ditto	Weekly	Khwaja Yusuf Ali,	21st	25th	225
4	<i>Ahsan-al-Akhbar</i>	... Moradabad	... Ditto	... Ditto	Ali Husain Khan	" 14th & 21st	"	115
5	<i>Aina-i-Sikandari</i>	... Ditto	... Ditto	... Ditto	Ahmad Bakhsh	" 20th	" 24th	...
6	<i>Ain-al-Akhbar</i>	... Ditto	... Ditto	Ditto	Ashraf Ali	24th	25th	...
7	<i>Akhbar-i-Alam</i>	... Meerut	... Ditto	Ditto	Kamta Prasad	23rd	26th	140
8	<i>Akhbar-i-Am</i>	... Lahore	... Ditto	... Bi-weekly	Mukund Ram	" 23rd & 27th	" 26th & 30th respectively.	1,700
9	<i>Akhbar-i-Hind</i>	... Lucknow,	... Ditto	Weekly	Mirza Faiyaz Beg	23rd	27th	80
10	<i>Akhbar-i-Tamannadi,</i>	... Ditto	... Ditto	Ditto	Puran Chand	24th	26th	125
11	<i>Akmal-al-Akhbar</i>	... Delhi	... Ditto	Ditto	Fakhr-al-din	26th	29th	80
12	<i>Aligarh Institute Gazette.</i>	... Aligarh	... Urdu-Eng-lish.	... Bi-weekly	Golab Rai	" 23rd & 26th	" 25th & 28th respectively.	276 copies (including 68 copies taken by Govt.)
13	<i>Anjuman-i-Hind</i>	... Lucknow,	Urdu	Weekly	Chandan Lal	23rd	28th	135 copies.
14	<i>Anjuman-i-Panjab</i>	... Lahore	Urdu-Eng-lish.	Ditto	Mir Nisar Ali	" 26th	" 30th	425 copies (including 200 copies taken by Govt.)
15	<i>Anwar-al-Akhbar</i>	... Lucknow,	Urdu	Ditto	Tegh Bahadur	28th	28th	120 copies.
16	<i>Ashraf-al-Akhbar</i>	... Delhi	Ditto	... Tri-monthly,	Miras Khan	" 21st	" 24th	100

17	Bhadrat Bandhu	Aligarh	Hindi	Weekly	Tota Ram	22nd	28th	147	"
18	Bhadrī Vilās	Agra	Ditto	Tri-monthly	Jamna Das	25th	27th	200	"
19	Dabdaba-i-Qaisari	Bareilly	Urdu	Weekly	Thakur Prasad	23rd	26th	225	"
20	Dabdaba-i-Sikandri	Rampur	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammad Husain	25th	27th	410	"
21	Delhi Punch	Lahore	Ditto	Ditto	Husain Ali	23rd	25th	225	"
22	Guldasta-i-Benares	Benares	Ditto	Ditto	Fida Husain	22nd	"	300	"
23	Gurmukhi Akhbār	Lahore	Gurmukhi	Ditto	Gurmukh Singh	27th	30th	188	"
24	Jaipur Gazette	Jaipur	Hindi	Bi-weekly	Mahabir Prasad	23rd & 27th	25th & 29th respectively.	188	"
25	Jalwa-i-Tār	Meerut	Urdu	Weekly	Rae Ganeshi Lal	24th	29th	50	"
26	Karnamah	Lucknow	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammad Yaqub	25th	27th	250	"
27	Kaukab-i-Hind	Ditto	Ditto	Bi-monthly	Revd. T. Craven	29th	30th	310	"
28	Khair Khwah-i-Alam	Delhi	Ditto	Weekly	Mir Hasan	24th	29th	90	"
29	Koh-i-Nār	Lahore	Ditto	Bi-weekly	Jawwad Ali	23rd & 27th	26th & 30th respectively.	490 copies (including 86 copies taken by Govt.)	"
30	Lauk-i-Mahfāz	Moradabad	Ditto	Weekly	Mihdi Husain Khan.	22nd	30th	80 copies.	"
31	Lawrence Gazette	Meerut	Ditto	Ditto	Saiyid Jamil-al-din	26th	29th	365	"
32	Marwar Gazette	Jodhpur	Hindi-Urdu	Ditto	Gobardhan Das	25th	"	100	"
33	Mashir-i-Qaisar	Lucknow	Urdu	Ditto	Ghulam Muhammad	26th	28th	200	"
34	Mishir-i-Darakhshān	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	Nusrat Ali	24th	25th	150	"
35	Mishir-i-Nimroz	Bijnor	Ditto	Ditto	Muhib-ul-lah	22nd	27th	90	"
36	Mitra Vilās	Lahore	Hindi	Ditto	Mukund Ram	25th	"	250	"
37	Mutla-i-Nār	Cawnpore	Urdu	Ditto	Nabi Baksh	27th	30th	32	"
38	Najmal Akhbār	Etawah	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammad Hayat	24th	28th	200	"
39	Nasim-i-Agra	Agra	Ditto	Ditto	Jamna Das	23rd	25th	325	"
40	Nasim-i-Hind	Fatehpur	Ditto	Ditto	Ambica Prasad	26th	29th	106	"
41	Nār Afshān	Ludhiana	Ditto	Ditto	Revd. E. M. Wherry	28th	30th	700	"
42	Nār-al-Anwar	Cawnpore	Ditto	Ditto	Muhammad Yaqub	30th	"	337	"
43	Nusrat-al-Akhbār	Delhi	Ditto	Ditto	Nusrat Ali	24th	25th	80	"

List of papers examined—(concluded).

Sl. No.	NAME.	LOCALITY.	LANGUAGE.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER.	DATE OF RECEIPT.	CIRCULATION.
44	<i>Nusrat-ul-Islam</i> ...	Delhi ...	Urdu	Weekly	Nasrat Ali	July 24th ...	July 25th ...	50 copies.
45	<i>Oudh Akhbar</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	Ditto	Daily	Sheo Prasad	" 25th to 30th	" 25th to 30th	715 copies (including 90 copies taken by Govt.)
46	<i>Oudh Punch</i> ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	Weekly	Ajjad Husain	" 26th	" 27th	600 copies.
47	<i>Panjab Akhbar</i> ...	Lahore ...	Ditto	Bi-weekly	Muhammad Aziz,	" 23rd	" 26th & 29th	300
48	<i>Panjab Punch</i> ...	Ditto ...	Ditto	Weekly	Fateh-al-din	" 19th & 26th	" 25th & 29th	150
49	<i>Patiala Akhbar</i> ...	Patiala ...	Ditto	Ditto	Rikhi Kesh	" 25th	respectively	300
50	<i>Prince of Wales' Gazette.</i>	Meerut ...	Ditto	Ditto	Rae Ganeshi Lal	" 20th	" 28th	50
51	<i>Quasr-ul-Akhbar</i> ...	Allahabad,	Ditto	Ditto	Abdul Latif	" 24th	" 24th	125
52	<i>Rahbar-i-Hind</i> ...	Lahore ..	Ditto	Bi-weekly	Nadir Ali Shah	" 25th & 28th	" 26th & 29th	517
53	<i>Sabha Kapurthala</i> ...	Kapurthala	Ditto	Weekly	Sharf-al-din	" 23rd	respectively	200
54	<i>Sadiq-ul-Akhbar</i> ...	Bhawalpur	Ditto	Ditto	Abdul Quds	" 21st & 28th	" 24th & 30th	455
55	<i>Safir-i-Hind</i> ...	Delhi ...	Ditto	Bi-monthly,	Bulaji Das	" 24th	respectively.	150
56	<i>Sahas</i> ...	Allahabad, Bengali	...	Weekly	Shri Kali Krishna Chatterji.	" 23rd	" 26th	...
57	<i>Said-ul-Akhbar</i> ...	Budaun ...	Urdu	Ditto	Afzal Ali	" 21st	" 28th	75

58	<i>Sajjan Kirti Sudha-Udaipur ...</i>	Hindi	...	Ditto	...	Banshi Dhar	...	25th	...	"	29th	...	225	"
59	<i>Shola-i-Tar</i>	.. Cawnpore,	Urdu	Ditto	...	Haidar Ali	...	26th	...	"	28th	...	325	"
60	<i>Vritt Dhara</i>	... Dhar	Marathi	Ditto	...	Hari Bhaskar	...	25th	...	"	30th	...	125	"

ALLAHABAD: }
The 4th August, 1881. }

PRIYA DAS, M.A.,
Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.

[illegible]

100

○
○
○
○
○